

REMARKS

These remarks and the above amendment are responsive to the final Office action dated September 12, 2000. Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner withdrew claims 5 and 10-23 and rejected claims 1-4 and 6-9. In response, applicant has filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), cancelled all claims and added new claims 24-29. The new claims more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention.. Applicant respectfully requests grant of his Request for Continued Examination and consideration of the newly submitted claims.

Request for Continued Examination

Applicants have submitted a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This request complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(a). In particular:

- (i) Prosecution in the application is closed, since the last Office action was a final Office action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113.
- (ii) The Request is accompanied by a submission, specifically, the amendment to the claims set out above.
- (iii) The Request is accompanied by the fee set forth at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).


Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests grant of his Request for Continued Examination.

Amendments

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petitions, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 29, 2003.


Pamela A. Knight

Date of Signature: September 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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